

just is not enough. We can and must do more to end hunger now.

DEMOCRACY OR AUTHORITARIANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to serve as chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, also known as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Last week, in Vienna, all democracies of the 57-member Parliamentary Assembly unanimously supported Ukraine and condemnation of war criminal Putin.

The world understands there is competition between democracies with rule of law opposed by authoritarians with rule of gun. War criminal Putin is sacrificing young Russians for oil, money, and power for himself.

Ukraine represents peace through strength and must be victorious in this conflict to avoid the Chinese Communist Party invasion of Taiwan and to stop the Iranian regime as it develops intercontinental ballistic missiles to vaporize Israel and bring mass murder to America.

America is not alone in understanding freedom is not free. The European Union has provided \$54 billion to Ukraine, and recently, Norway authorized another \$7 billion and Japan another \$5 billion. Over 52 nations are promoting eventual peace through strength for Ukraine.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

BRINGING CLEAN WATER TO EVERY COMMUNITY

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last year, on my birthday, I was really excited to see that I had a kayak expedition on my calendar. I love getting outdoors and especially on the open water, but because I represent a district that has some of the oldest infrastructure in the country, it turned out that my kayak tour was an inspection of combined stormwater and sewer outlets on the Schuylkill River.

That is why I am more excited today to highlight that \$2.4 billion from the bipartisan infrastructure law is being invested in communities nationwide to support necessary upgrades to our infrastructure to increase access to clean water.

I am thrilled to see yet another wave of clean water infrastructure funding, including \$92 million for Pennsylvania, being invested in the health and safety of our families. Nearly half that fund-

ing is available as grants and forgivable loans to ensure that our most underserved communities can access the investments.

As I noted, some of our greatest infrastructure and environmental challenges facing southeastern Pennsylvania involve the need to address critical water, wastewater, and stormwater projects.

This new funding will protect the health of Pennsylvania's children and families.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOLDEN CORRAL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a spectacular company that is headquartered in North Carolina, Golden Corral.

This year, Golden Corral and its many dedicated employees are celebrating 50 years of providing Americans across the country with home-cooked classics at an affordable price.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this company truly exceptional is its unwavering commitment to serving the communities in which it operates. From its various fundraisers to support local initiatives to its longstanding partnership with a national nonprofit to support veterans and their families, it is abundantly clear that Golden Corral lives and breathes service.

Congratulations to Golden Corral and its many employees on reaching such a historic milestone. Here is to many more years of service to America's countless communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DRACO MILLER

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Draco Miller, a cherished member of the Brownwood community who sadly passed away on February 16, 2023.

Draco was a father, husband, son, businessowner, and public servant to the community of Brownwood as a city council member, mentor to our youth, and leader in numerous service-oriented boards and organizations.

In 2022, Draco was named Man of the Year by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce for his service to Brownwood. In his own words, he said: "This is my city, and I love my city. There is no place like home."

Although he loved and cherished Brownwood, his family was the most important facet of his life. He dedicated his life to passing along his long-held values of faith, family, and a strong work ethic.

He is remembered for his seemingly endless energy, optimism, and good will that carried him through decades of community involvement and community improvement projects.

Although we mourn his loss, I know his legacy will live on through his wife, Sonja; their children; many extended family members; and the entire Brownwood community.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FALLON) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKİYE AND SYRIA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 132) responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 132

Whereas, on February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye, followed by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake later the same day, followed by over a thousand aftershocks in Türkiye and north-west Syria;

Whereas the earthquakes have caused massive death and destruction, killing more than 36,000 people and injuring tens of thousands more in Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development and other agencies mobilized Federal agencies and partners to provide life-saving assistance to the people of Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas dangerous freezing winter weather conditions negatively impacted rescue efforts and put earthquake survivors at further risk after thousands of buildings collapsed into rubble;

Whereas the Republic of Türkiye is a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally of the United States;

Whereas prior to the devastating earthquakes, millions of people in Syria were relying on humanitarian assistance, and Türkiye was hosting more than 3,500,000 Syrian refugees;

Whereas through 12 years of war in Syria, the Assad regime has impeded the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians, including those in areas now impacted by the February 6, 2023, earthquakes;

Whereas the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China have used their veto power at the United Nations Security Council to restrict the number of United Nations-authorized border crossings between Türkiye and Syria from four to just one—Bab al-Hawa;

Whereas although areas outside of the Assad regime's control have been the worst affected by the earthquake, Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad stated that any aid to victims must go through the Syrian Government in Damascus;

Whereas Department of State Spokesman Ned Price has stated it would be "ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people over the course of a dozen years now";

Whereas the Assad regime has shamefully used the earthquake to call for the lifting of United States sanctions, falsely claiming that such sanctions impede the aid response; and

Whereas the human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for countless families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the horrific loss of life in Türkiye and Syria caused by the earthquakes in Türkiye on February 6, 2023;

(2) expresses its deep condolences to the families of the many earthquake victims;

(3) applauds the heroic work of humanitarian aid and rescue workers on the ground to save lives and provide care for victims, including United States Agency for International Development Urban Search and Rescue teams, the Armed Forces of the United States, including members of such Armed Forces stationed at the Incirlik Air Force base in Türkiye, and the Syrian Civil Defense, otherwise known as the White Helmets;

(4) applauds the response to the earthquake tragedy by the United States Government, other governments, and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) applauds the civilians in Türkiye and Syria who have selflessly volunteered to assist with response to the devastating aftermath;

(6) urges the international community to support heroic disaster response efforts in Türkiye and Syria, including those by the Syrian Civil Defense, the White Helmets;

(7) condemns efforts by the Assad regime to cynically exploit the disaster to evade international pressure and accountability, including by preventing the United Nations from providing assistance through multiple border crossings between Türkiye and Syria;

(8) calls on the Biden administration to continue to use all diplomatic tools, including through the United Nations Security Council, to open all Türkiye-Syria border crossings for United Nations assistance;

(9) underscores the need for international assistance to reach northwest Syria to assist with disaster relief;

(10) calls for an increased oversight mechanism to ensure that United States-funded assistance is not diverted for the benefit of the Assad regime;

(11) urges the Biden administration to remain committed to the protection of the Syrian people including by implementing the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019; and

(12) welcomes the Republic of Türkiye's continuing support to Syrian refugees in Türkiye and in northwestern Syria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the

gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America and the world have been shocked by the deadly earthquake in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, which killed more than 50,000 people and injured more than 100,000 people.

Entire cities and towns near the epicenter in Türkiye have been wiped off the map. Five million people are homeless, and over 20 million are in need now. We are grateful to see such a generous and compassionate American response. Many brave men and women both inside Türkiye, Syria, and others from around the globe sprang into action to work relentlessly at search and rescue operations and providing relief to the people impacted on the ground.

At Incirlik Air Base, a very strategic American air base in Türkiye, 125 miles from the earthquake epicenter, the 728th Air Mobility Squadron and the 39th Operational Support Squadron have worked quickly to coordinate with the United States Agency for International Development to deliver aid to those impacted on the ground who are in need.

American families offer sincere sympathies to the families who are mourning loved ones and nursing others back to health. The Republic of Türkiye for over 70 years has been a valued NATO ally, and as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans, I am particularly supportive of their efforts to meet the needs of the impacted earthquake victims.

Entrepreneurial Turkish-American and Syrian-American communities have been mobilized to help, such as Vinnie and Nesli Senturk, owners of Hidden Valley Tavern in Sapphire, North Carolina, represented by Congressman CHUCK EDWARDS, who are raising funds to help the people in Türkiye.

Syria Civil Defence, better known as the White Helmets, have been instrumental in search and rescue efforts, in addition to clearing rubble and opening roads to facilitate the distribution of relief aid by local nongovernment organizations. Their efforts saved at least 3,000 lives, despite being left alone and receiving no material international support through the critical and crucial first days of the response.

Impressive assistance by Raed Al Saleh and all the other White Helmets,

which he leads, has been achieved to help the people who are so desperately needed to advocate and provide real assistance.

To make this devastating tragedy worse, Syria's brutal dictator Assad is stealing humanitarian aid, and even worse, has continued bombing the affected areas at least 10 times since the earthquake. There have already been videos of the Assad regime soldiers stealing aid that is attempting to reach Syrian communities in need.

The United Nations even refused to provide critical aid into northwest Syria because of war criminal Putin's veto on cross-border assistance in the United Nations Security Council after the Assad regime initially refused to permit humanitarian aid through northern points of entry that are controlled by opposition groups.

The United Nations should not politicize humanitarian assistance. Even further, the U.N. should circumvent the obstructions of Assad and war criminal Putin, which denies humanitarian aid to earthquake victims. It is significant this resolution calls on President Biden to use all diplomatic means to push the U.N. to get aid to those in need.

Natasha Hall from the Center for Strategic and International Studies said it clearly, "The Syrian Government has perfected the politicization and weaponization of humanitarian aid throughout the civil war—in some cases it's far more effective than a military offensive."

Yet, Assad, to add insult to injury, continues to lie and blame U.S. sanctions for causing delays in aid. This is simply not true. As this resolution makes clear, Mr. Speaker, sanctions on war criminals like Assad, which passed on a bipartisan basis, prevent the regime from obtaining the resources to further brutalize the people of Syria, and do not inhibit humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened that there has been a weakening of sanctions by the Biden administration on the Assad regime through permitting direct transactions with the Assad regime. This will do nothing to help with earthquake relief and will only endanger Syrian civilians by enriching the regime.

We are already seeing the result of Biden's weak policy this week with Arab countries beginning to normalize relations with the regime and ignoring the Caesar Act, which threatened dire consequences for normalization. Despite this, let it be known that Congress will continue to stand with the Caesar Act on a bipartisan basis and strengthen sanctions on Assad and those who engage this barbaric regime.

It is gruesomely clear that there is no solution to the problems in Syria so long as the brutal Assad regime remains in power. Terrorism, refugees, war crimes, Iranian influence, chemical weapons, narcotrafficking, genocide—Assad is the driver of all these. This earthquake proves the point yet

again, American families' prayers and sincere condolences go to the people of Türkiye and Syria.

To the brutal Assad regime and its backers, war criminal Putin, and the authoritarian Ayatollah in Iran, there will be a message: Your diversion of humanitarian aid during an earthquake is despicable. You are not fooling anyone with your lies about sanctions. The U.S. Congress stands united. We will never normalize with you. We will hold all those who attempt to normalize with you accountable. We will not stop supporting the people of Syria to have a government they deserve based on democracy with rule of law, not authoritarianism with rule of gun. It is bipartisan in America to support freedom for the people of Syria and Iran and victory for the people of Ukraine seeking to defend their country from authoritarian governments.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers go to those affected by the earthquake. God bless the people of Türkiye, Syria, and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 132, related to the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, so that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 132 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing concerning H. Res. 132, Responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023. I agree that the Committee on Financial Services shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 132 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your Committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 132, related to the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, so that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 132 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor in support of my friend, Congressman JOE WILSON's resolution, H. Res. 132, responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023.

This timely and important resolution comes just weeks after multiple 7.5-plus magnitude earthquakes caused widespread devastation across central-southern Türkiye and northern Syria.

This natural disaster was so powerful that the shaking could be felt as far away as Egypt. The numbers are just staggering. Following the initial shaking, Türkiye and Syria have borne the brunt of over 1,000 aftershocks, furthering the massive death and destruction that has decimated infrastructure and communities across the region. Even today, Mr. Speaker, there was another aftershock with reported loss of death.

As of February 25, 2023, Reuters estimated that 160,000 buildings containing over half a million apartments have collapsed or were severely damaged. The earthquake has killed more than 48,000 people and injured 118,700 others in Türkiye and Syria combined. Today, the U.N. Development Programme estimates that 1.5 million people have been left homeless.

As ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and as an original cosponsor of this resolution, I want to express my deepest condolences to the people of Türkiye and Syria who have been so

deeply impacted by these earthquakes. Tens of thousands have lost their lives and even more have been left without a safe place to call home. As a result, once vibrant cities and communities across the entire region have been shattered and left in ruin.

In addition, I want to commend the efforts of thousands of international humanitarian aid and rescue workers, as well as national entities, local organizations, and individuals from across the region who have come together to provide lifesaving assistance to those impacted by this devastating earthquake.

During the past few weeks, these aid workers have provided lifesaving resources and support, all while working in freezing winter conditions, just to get help and relief for this enormous devastation and provide the greatest help to the people who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud those humanitarian and rescue workers from across the United States Government who have joined the international community in a global response. In total, as of February 19, 2023, the United States has allocated \$185 million in humanitarian assistance for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria.

As part of its coordinated response, USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance quickly deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team, also known as a DART, which is working in close coordination with government authorities and partners on the ground.

The DART included USAID-supported search and rescue units have drawn domestic voluntary help, as well. It is important to recognize Fairfax County, Virginia's, and Los Angeles County, California's, fire departments have come to aid and help these people in such great need. They provide heroic assistance in working with USAID. USAID has deployed a total of 160 urban search and rescue personnel to Türkiye who have now returned to the United States. We thank them for volunteering and their heroic acts.

Furthermore, through its implementing partner, the World Food Program, as of February 23, USAID had also supported the provision of food assistance to 660,000 individuals in Syria and 900,000 earthquake-affected people in Türkiye. In addition, 840 metric tons of USAID in-kind relief commodities, including water, hygiene materials, kitchen sets, and disaster relief materials were all delivered to support the earthquake survivors.

Finally, the Department of Defense, in coordination with USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, has airlifted 541,100 pounds of critical relief items, including blankets, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, tents, and winter clothing.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support those efforts and commend President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Administrator Power for their swift response to this disaster.

As the international community has responded, the Assad regime has made that effort far more difficult. For example, while the Department of the Treasury has taken important steps to clarify existing sanctions licenses required to ensure the transfer of vital humanitarian aid to the region, the exploitation of this disaster by the Assad regime is reprehensible and cynical.

I wholeheartedly condemn these efforts by the Assad regime, which have included preventing the United Nations from providing assistance through multiple border crossings between Türkiye and Syria. The people of Syria have suffered tremendously under the Assad regime, which since 2011 has used any means available, including the use of chemical weapons, to suppress the voice of the Syrian people.

(1715)

There is intense need for international assistance in Syria, and I support the call in this resolution for the Biden administration to continue to use all diplomatic tools, including through the U.N. Security Council, to open and keep open all Türkiye-Syria border crossings for United Nations assistance.

Despite barriers from the Assad regime, the United Nations has worked tirelessly in coordinating and facilitating life-saving humanitarian assistance efforts by providing hot meals, food, tents, clothing, medical supplies, and personnel to affected areas. Psychosocial support services are also being provided, as well. Child-friendly spaces and safe spaces for women to ensure those most vulnerable are cared for are also in motion there.

U.N. programs like the World Food Programme and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees have also crossed into Syria at the Bab al-Salam border crossing to ensure the people of Syria receive the vital aid that they need.

All together, the United Nations has sent health supplies to more than 400,000 people impacted by the earthquake and has released \$50 million from its Central Emergency Response fund to jump-start the response. The U.N. has also issued a flash appeal to raise all the necessary funds to help meet the needs of those affected by these earthquakes.

I, again, thank Congressman JOE WILSON for his efforts on this legislation as well as over 35 bipartisan cosponsors. This resolution sends a strong message of solidarity from the United States to the people of Türkiye and Syria as they begin to cope with the aftermath of these devastating earthquakes, and I am proud to join in supporting this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It is really refreshing to see Republicans and Democrats come together as we assist the people of

Türkiye and Syria. The comments from BILL KEATING are inspiring. I am just so grateful that he is one of the first cosponsors of the legislation to show our appreciation of the people of Türkiye and Syria. It is particularly meaningful to me. The loss of life is inconceivable: 50,000 people dead, 100,000 people injured, and 5 million people homeless. Actually, in some ways I can identify. The largest earthquake ever recorded on the East Coast was in my birthplace of Charleston, South Carolina, on August 31, 1886. Growing up there in Charleston, when I was much younger, people had actually a memory of the earthquake. It is something that has been so horrifying, and indeed, we are with the people of Türkiye and Syria.

It is particularly significant to me where America has such a positive role, the thought that Incirlik Air Base is 125 miles from the epicenter—how close—and it is significant that the runways were not affected. So from that, the various American military units could work.

We want to give special credit to the 728th Air Mobility Squadron and the 39th Operational Support Squadron who have worked so closely with USAID to provide the massive amounts of aid for the 20 million people who are in need.

So it is refreshing to see Republicans and Democrats working together to see how important it is that the people of Türkiye understand as a NATO member how important they are to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his strong bipartisan support in this gathering together of people on both sides of the aisle for America's interest. As he pointed out, we have an interest not only with our own defense facilities not far from that region and not only associating as he has his own experience the devastation of earthquakes, but also a stark contrast that occurs to the people of Syria when they find out the U.S. and other countries are coming together to their aid while the Syrian regime under Assad continues to wreak havoc and damage to the everyday lives of the people of Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), who is a new member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. We all look forward to working together with the gentlewoman.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KEATING for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important resolution responding to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Türkiye and Syria as a result of the devastating earthquakes on February 6 and the many, many aftershocks.

The death toll from this tragedy is approaching 50,000 men, women, and

children. Thousands more are injured, hundreds of thousands of buildings are destroyed, and millions of survivors have been displaced from their homes—many now residing in temporary shelters with inadequate food, heat, water, and medical care.

I commend the gentleman making this resolution. I commend the Biden administration for its swift response to this crisis. Through USAID and the State Department, the United States Government quickly mobilized search-and-rescue teams, allocated \$185 million in humanitarian assistance, and continues to deliver vital relief supplies to first responders.

Rebuilding from this disaster will not be easy, and the road ahead is long. We call upon the governments in this area to support the people, to support their recovery, and to support their rebuilding.

This resolution is a symbol of our commitment to ensuring we continue to deliver assistance to those so gravely impacted by this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WILSON, and I thank Congressman KEATING for his leadership in this important resolution.

God bless the people of Türkiye and Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, again, it is so refreshing to see colleagues of both political parties across the country from South Carolina to Massachusetts to Pennsylvania. Actually, it is reflective of the deep affection that the people of America have as we appreciate, in particular, Türkiye, a NATO ally, that it is always to be cherished because when you visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial here on the mall in Washington, Mr. Speaker, you see the Allies who stood together to oppose the Communist aggression of June 1950, and the first country that is listed is Türkiye. It is an ever-present reminder of our appreciation and then our recognition of Kemal Atatürk and his success in creating a democracy in the Middle East.

Over and over again there is such a great affection, and the significance of the Turkish-American community and the Syrian-American community what they have meant as entrepreneurs across our country is so positive.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. Again, I thank Congressman JOE WILSON, the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia for his work on this resolution.

It is important to recognize that the U.S. is joining the whole international community, again, at a time of need. It is in our self-interest to move in this respect, too. There are countless aftereffects as well as aftershocks that will come about as a result of this

earthquake. We are going to see time and time again swift action and humanitarian action. Action for support will really come back in a very cost effective and humanitarian way to provide dividends moving forward in the future.

That being said, too, our NATO ally, Türkiye, is suffering a great deal. We want to demonstrate not just through NATO and other alliances that we are there for the Turkish people as well who have often come to our aid in areas of critical security needs.

The people of Türkiye and Syria have suffered tremendously as a result of these earthquakes and thousands of the aftershocks.

I support this resolution to signal globally that the United States stands with the people of Türkiye and Syria and the United States will continue to support any and all humanitarian efforts to bring aid and assistance to the victims of these disasters. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that all our colleagues join together in this bipartisan effort to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the broad coalition of Members on both sides of the aisle with the leadership of Congressman Bill Keating who have come together to support this critical resolution.

I especially want to thank Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and Leader STEVE SCALISE for their accelerating the scheduling of this for today. It is so important for the people of Türkiye and Syria to know of our affection for them.

The people of the United States stand with the suffering people of Türkiye and Syria who have been so impacted by this terrible natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 132 is an important statement of human solidarity. It deserves our unanimous support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 132.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXTENSION OF FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1108) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1108

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY.

Section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)) is amended by striking “March 9, 2023” and inserting “May 19, 2023”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is important today that we consider H.R. 1108. This bill would extend the Federal Communications Commission's general authority to auction spectrum and provide licenses and construction permits for the use of radio spectrum.

This piece of legislation is sponsored by the gentlewoman from Washington who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and also by the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey.

Without congressional action, the FCC's authority to issue spectrum licenses expires on March 9. Auction authority is a key tool for making frequencies available for commercial uses that enable U.S. technological leadership.

This bill will also ensure that FCC has the authority it needs to continue issuing licenses for a spectrum band that will be used to provide better coverage and wireless speeds across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to auction commercial spectrum.

Our Nation's airwaves are one of our country's most important natural resources. Indeed, radio waves are a critical component in building next-gen-

eration wireless networks and delivering high-speed services to American consumers. As such, radio waves and the networks they support can make a meaningful difference in Americans' lives by expanding the reach of telehealth services, extending learning beyond the classroom, and providing critical communications for public safety activities. To achieve these notable goals, we must continue to expand the ability of commercial users to access our airwaves.

H.R. 1108 provides a short-term extension of the Federal Communications Commission's auction authority for roughly 2 months from its expiration date this coming March.

It is essential that we extend this authority. Congress has never allowed this spectrum authority to lapse, and to maintain our Nation's global leadership in wireless innovation, we must ensure that consistent management and oversight of spectrum remains intact, which includes spectrum auctions. For years these auctions have efficiently made our airwaves available for commercial use.

Importantly, though, even with the passage of this legislation, our work will not be done. We must spend these next 2 months working with our Senate colleagues to pass a bipartisan spectrum agreement that can get to the President's desk before the FCC's auction authority expires again.

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The Energy and Commerce Committee has traditionally worked in a bipartisan fashion on key telecommunication matters, and I commend Chairwoman RODGERS for continuing this tradition with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this timely bill in a bipartisan manner, and I hope the Senate will soon follow. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Mrs. RODGERS), the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, legislation I introduced with Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE to extend the Federal Communications Commission's general auction authority.

For the last year, I have worked with Energy and Commerce Committee leaders and the Senate to develop sound spectrum policy that promotes economic growth and promotes our national security. In order for the U.S. to maintain its global competitive edge, we must get spectrum policy right and not cede our leadership to adversaries like China.

Without congressional action, the FCC's authority to issue spectrum licenses expires on March 9. This bill will also ensure the FCC has the authority it needs to continue issuing licenses for a spectrum band that will be